ABSTRACT

A Study for Development of Korean University Student Competency Index

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The purpose of this study is to evaluate the competency of Korean university students and identify the future tasks for the improvement of their competency. Based on the previous studies and surveys, we developed an assessment tool for the measurement of university students' competency. The university students' index are composed of five main areas(inter-personal relationship, study, job, self-management, civic competency), 17 sub-areas, and 28 indicators. After measuring university students' competency through survey using the assessment tool, we produced competency index for Korean students.

The result shows that Korean university students' total competency index which are weighted is 68.8, which is relatively low score considering that 100 is the maximum index score. When we analyze the total index score by gender, grade, region, and major, we find that female students score is 98.5% of male students. Freshman index score is 94.9% of fourth grade students(graduating senior). Students of metropolitan area university shows relatively high score. Non-metropolitan students' index score is 98.6% of metropolitan students' score. Medical students show highest index score, and education college students shows the second highest score compared to art & music, engineering.

Taking a look at the five main areas of index(weighting), we find that inter-personal relationship competency score is 84.2, which is the highest score

among five main areas. And, study, job, self-management, and civic competency scores are 69.6, 65.8, 64.5, and 64.5 respectively, which are very low score compared to inter-personal relationship competency score. This result implies that Korean university students need to improve their competency of these four main areas(study, job, self-management, civic competency).

Overall, Korean university students competencies falls behind except for the inter-personal relationship competency. Specifically, Korean university students have relatively low civic competency than other four areas. Since civic competency is emphasized in OECD nowadays, we should make some plans for the improvement of civic competency of Korea students. Also self-management competency need to be improved.

Policy implication based on this study can be drawn as follow.

Universities need to take a look at current curriculum and make some actions to improve curriculum and develop programs for their students. In the process of the development, factors such as gender, grade, and college major which have effect on competency should be considered. In addition, programs to improve students' civic and self-management competency need to be developed. Civic competency is composed of global competency and social participation competency. Thus in order to increase the civic competency, universities need to construct some plans to induce students to participate in the social activities and international programs.

When Korean government establishes higher education policies, the results of competency measurement need to be considered. Financial support for universities need to be implemented based on the results of students competency index of each university. Additional supporting policies for universities located in the non-metropolitan areas should be developed.

❑ **keyword**: competency, education, indicator, university student competency index, student assessment.